

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE****In the Specification**

The paragraph beginning on page 9, line 24 has been amended as follows:

Figure 4 is a flow chart of a method for executing tools 240 on one or more managed nodes 130 in the SCM module 110. This method may be implemented, for example, in software modules for execution by processor 108. first, the SCM module 110 may receive a request from a user 210 to run a tool on one or more nodes 130 through the client process, step 402. The request may include task information, such as the name of the tool to be run, the location of the tool, the nodes on which to run the tool, and required arguments of the tool, if any. Next, the SCM module 110 may retrieve tool definition, node definition and user definition from the domain manager 330, step 404, and validate the task information received from the user 210, step 406. The domain manager 330, connected to the repository 104, may be contacted to provide tool definition or information about the nodes 130 or the user 210 whenever the clients 310 need to look up a tool 240 or to verify nodes 130. An example of tool definition is described in United States patent application of Lister, Sanchez, Drees, and Finz, **Application Serial No. 09/800,316**, entitled "Service Control Manager Tool Definition,"[,] and filed on [the same day herewith] **March 6, 2001**, which is incorporated herein by reference. The validation of the task information may include checking whether the nodes requested are the managed nodes, whether the tool actually exists, and whether the required arguments of the tool are given.